

Chester Board of Finance
Regular Meeting, April 16, 2015
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Call to Order

Introduction and seating of members

The Chester Board of Finance held its regular meeting on April 16, 2015 at the Chester Town Hall, 203 Middlesex Avenue, Chester, Connecticut. In attendance were Virginia Carmany, Lori Ann Clymas (seated for B. Gorman), Alex Strekel (seated for J. Aley) and Rick Nygard (seated for C. Park). Dave Cohen arrived during the meeting. First Selectman Ed Meehan and Selectman Larry Sypher were also present. Chairman Carmany called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes from March 2015

Motion by Clymas, second by Strekel, to approve March 19, 2015 Minutes as written. Unanimously Approved with Nygard abstaining.

New Business

Review of draft full year 2015-16 Operating Budget, Revenue Budget and Capital Five Year budget with Forecasted Fund Balance Allocation and suggested prefunded Capital Budget and Determine and agree on Revenue, Operating and Capital Budget for 2015/16

Chairman Carmany noted this was a continuation of the discussion from last night in which it was agreed to include an additional \$50,000 to expenditures cover some unknown open items.

First Selectman Meehan reviewed some of the changes. He noted very few things changed other than employee expenses for medical, FICA, Park & Rec and Contingencies. He indicated a couple of proposals have been received for medical which are being reviewed. The Capital stayed the same. The mil rate will increase by .50. The additional \$50,000 goes into the Contingency account.

Vote to send Budgets to Town Hearing as recommended by Board of Selectmen per calendar schedule determined by First Selectman

Motion by Cohen, second by Nygard, to recommend the Budget to Town Hearing as discussed scheduled for May 6th. Unanimously Approved.

Reports

Monthly Financials

Chairman Carmany noted Monthly Financials had been distributed and looked good. The Tax Collector's Report was on target. There were no questions.

Consideration and Approval of Bills – none.

First Selectman's Report

First Selectman Meehan noted the bids for the Main Street Project Phase 1 were

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opened last Thursday. The 3 low bidders will be interviewed tomorrow. The Project Engineer will verify costs, bidder qualifications, etc. etc. All bidders were located in Connecticut. First Selectman Meehan noted it will be important to find out who the contractor's subcontractors will be. Traffic management will be very important. The project needs to be done expeditiously. There was a brief discussion regarding traffic management, culvert replacement, tree work, utilities, curbing, etc. All bidders had to submit a 5% bid bond with the bid. There are no bid alternates in this phase. Meehan noted Laurel Hill Cemetery is still part of this phase. They are not doing decorative lighting in LHC, but rather shoebox design with cutoffs that can be adjusted for the neighbors privacy. They will be milling and cleaning up on Main Street further west up to the old Town Hall in order to blend the 2 projects.

Old Business

There was a brief discussion regarding Selectmen's salary. It was noted Selectmen get the same salary increase as Union members. First Selectman Meehan noted there are a lot of resources out there and a salary review should be done on an off election year. Selectman Sypher noted he felt the First Selectman's salary was too low. One member of the BOF felt the study should be done in an election year.

There was a brief discussion regarding school regionalization. Chairman Carmany noted it is a misconception that closing an elementary school will save money. It may save money for the Region, but not the individual town. There are a lot of moving parts that need to be put on the table for this discussion.

Audience of Citizens

Elizabeth Netsch and James Grzybowski were in the audience.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith R. Brown". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Judith R. Brown, Recording Secretary